

#### October 2011

I place economy among the first and most important virtues, and public debt as the greatest dangers to be feared.

—Thomas Jefferson

## Making Thrift Fashionable Again

The virtue of thrift has become synonymous with cheap stuff and miserly ways, yet this virtue—arguably one of the most needed in our current economic uncertainties—was once associated with very positive attributes such as saving and good husbandry. In fact, the word "thrift" is derived from an Old Norse word that meant thriving condition and prosperity.

Unfortunately, our consumer-driven culture has relegated thrift to a lesser virtue because it no longer seems to matter how much we have saved; what matters is what we possess, how much more can we get, and how quickly we can get it.

This anti-thrift sentiment exacerbated the fallout from the housing bubble. When people saw their home values skyrocket, many tapped their home equity to buy new cars, boats, and other toys. Others secured no-document, adjustable-rate loans to purchase homes that were often far beyond their means, and there was no shortage of mortgage companies out there ready to sign them up.

**THRIFT. PAGE 4** 

# Turning Setbacks into Good Deeds



A string of problems turned into a rewarding, life-changing experience for Fontana resident Angie Childers.

It started about a year ago when she was living in Los Angeles. She ran a stop sign she didn't see and got a ticket. Not long afterward, she was let go from her job as a legal secretary.

The ensuing financial difficulties lead her to move near her son and his family in the Imperial Valley. That's when the ticket caught up with her. The fine was \$1,200 because she also got dinged for not updating her address. Angie told

the court she was unemployed but was willing to work off the ticket if possible.

She was assigned to Work Training Center in El Centro, a nonprofit that provides training to disabled adults so they can secure paying jobs.

"It turned out to be such a rewarding experience," Angie said. "They were just such awesome, great, wonderful people dedicated to their cause."

It was so rewarding Angie continued to volunteer 30 hours a week at the Working Training Center even after she'd

## IE United Way Launches Campaign for Kids

Inland Empire United Way has launched a campaign called Challenge for Kids to get more volunteers and donors for programs and initiatives that aid disadvantaged children in our communities. Over the course of a year, Inland Empire United Way aims to recruit 1,000 volunteers to serve as mentors and tutors to young people, and it plans to raise \$100,000 for children's programs and initiatives, including providing nutritious meals and school supplies to low-income students.

Inland Empire United Way is partnering with organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, Reach Out,

and Mustard Seed Tutoring to provide volunteers with an array of opportunities to mentor young children.

Adult mentors and role models have profound impacts on children's lives. According to research, mentors improve young people's social confidence, decrease the likelihood of them abusing drugs, and reduce drop-out rates.

Contact Inland Empire United Way at (909) 980-2857 or visit them on the Web at www.ieuw.org for more information about Challenge for Kids.

#### Scam Targets Business Owners

Business owners who receive an official-looking letter notifying them that their fictitious business name filing has expired and to send a check immediately should double check with the San Bernardino County Assessor-Recorder-Clerk's office before sending any payments.

Some business owners in the County have received bogus notices asking them to send payments up to \$500 to keep their fictitious business name (FBN) filings current. A fictitious business name filing is required when a business owner creates a name for his/her business that is not the business owner's full legal name or the names of business partners, e.g. AB Burgers.

The County notifies business owners about one month before a FBN filing expires. FBNs expire five years after they are filed with the County Clerk. The fee to file an FBN or renew one is \$40 if the business has only one partner. There is a \$10 fee for additional partners.

These types of scams often target small business owners who may be unaware of FBN requirements and procedures. If you have questions about filing an FBN or if you have been targeted by this scam, please contact the San Bernardino County Assessor-Recorder-Clerk's office at (909) 387-8306.

#### **CHILDERS**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

worked off the traffic citation. The center even gave her a paying job, but it was short-lived because of funding issues.

Frustrated by her lack of employment options, Angie decide it was time to go back to school to become a paralegal, so she moved to Fontana and enrolled at Mount San Antonio College. She also contacted Inland Empire United Way to offer her services as a volunteer.

The agency put her to work stocking shelves at the Teacher Resource Center, which partners with a national nonprofit called Kids in Need Foundation to provide school supplies to teachers in low-income areas. On an average day, about 20 teachers come in to pick up notebooks, pencils, markers, books, and other supplies.

Like so many Inland Empire residents, Angie is still desperately looking for work, but she said her experience working as a volunteer keeps her spirits up. "It's a long-lasting feeling at the end of the day," she said. "The end result is you are helping someone out who is in need. You don't have to donate money; you just need to donate a couple of hours."

In addition, volunteering helps Angie learn new skills and keep her other skills sharp while she continues looking for work.

"This is an on-the-job training experience," she said. "I really encourage it because it looks awesome on a resume. Employers do like to see that you are doing something with your time and that you have the right attitude that puts you out there and makes you a go-getter."

If you are interested in volunteering, contact the Inland Empire United Way at (909) 980-2857 to learn about local opportunities.

## E-Books Available from County Library

Avid readers rejoice.

The San Bernardino County Library now offers patrons access to hundreds of downloadable books and audio books online through the Inland Empire Digital Library.

Books are available in a variety of formats and can be read or listened to on devices such as smartphones, PCs, MP3 players, Apple portable devices, and eReaders. Patrons can check out up to five titles at a time.

The lending period varies by title, but there's no need to fret about turning the material back in time. The title will just disappear from your device once the lending period expires.

The County had to adjust library hours this year to cut costs, and the new E-books are a great way to continue providing residents access to books even when our libraries are closed.

Visit www.sbcounty.gov/library for more information about E-books and other San Bernardino County Library services.

### County Budget Gap Grows

The 2011-12 budget adopted by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors earlier this year was crafted to address a \$47.2 budget deficit; however, it was based on assumptions that County employees would agree to compensation concessions, which have yet to fully materialize.

The County trimmed \$24.9 million from the budget through savings, cuts, and consolidations, but we still face a \$22.3 million gap.

County Chief Executive Officer Greg Devereaux estimates the deficit will grow an additional \$42.6 million by the fiscal year 2015-16. That figure does not include the estimated \$34.2 million the County will need to staff the expanded Adelanto Detention Center. The jail currently holds about 700 inmates, and it will be able to hold an additional 1,300 once the expansion is completed in 2013.

The extra jail space will be critical as the State follows through with its plan to shift responsibility for "non-serious" offenders to counties.

In response to the growing deficit, the CEO has assembled a Budget Gap Task Force to meet regularly with individual County departments, which will be asked to identify and prioritize core and discretionary—i.e. not required by law—services. Departments will also be asked to find new cost-saving ways to deliver essential County services.

There is no doubt that San Bernardino County faces stark budget challenges in the years to come and that there are many hard choices to be made. But I believe San Bernardino County and its employees can work together as a team to find budget solutions that cut costs while preserving critical County services.

#### 2nd District Trivia

Last Issue's Answer: Rancho Muscupiabe once encompassed the area that is now known as Devore. The name comes from the Serrano word muscupiabit, which means "place of little pines."

**Question**: Who was the County's first Second District Supervisor?

#### Contact Information

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#### **THRIFT**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I say it's time we make thrift fashionable again, and the Ontario Rotary Club has a great upcoming event that will do just that.

The Hard Times Luncheon and Fashion Show on Oct. 21 will feature local elected officials and community leaders, including yours truly, walking down the catwalk in clothing purchased from Goodwill. We models have a budget of \$25 to put together our secondhand ensembles, and some outfits look like they came straight from a full-price department store. Last year, Supervisor Gary Ovitt and his wife, Chaffey Joint Union School Board Member Sue Ovitt, looked sharp enough to go straight to a party.

The cost of the luncheon is \$25 but don't come expecting a fancy meal because this event is all about thrift. Instead, you will have a chance to taste some Depression-era foods, such as soups and simple sandwiches.

All proceeds will benefit the Rotary club's programs for children. Call Katie at (909) 982-0776 for more information. The Hard Times Luncheon and Fashion Show starts at 11 a.m. at the historic Pierre Biane Winery located at 9931 Eighth St. in Rancho Cucamonga. Please join us in helping area children and promoting a return to the virtue of thrift.

### **Upcoming Events**

Cruising Spring Street will take place from 5 to 9 p.m. on Spring Street near Sierra Avenue in the City of Fontana. Enjoy classic cars, entertainment, food and more and this monthly event.
Family Storytime is held at noon every Friday at the Biane Library located at 12505 Cultural Center Dr. Children between 2 and 11 are invited to listen to a story. Sign up at the Children's Information desk prior to the event.
The Mayor's Jazz Jam—a benefit for the Fontana Boys and Girls Club—will be held from 6 to 11 p.m. at the Fontana Community Senior Center. The cost is \$50 per person. Call 909-822-4988 for information.
Arrowhead Regional Medical Center will host the 9th annual Health and Safety Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will feature free health screenings, safety information, entertainment, and light snacks and water. The hospital is located at 400 N. Pepper Ave. in Colton.
The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors will meet at 10 a.m. at the San Bernardino County Government Center located at 385 N. Arrowhead Ave. in San Bernardino.
The County of San Bernardino will host a Free Dump Day at all County landfills from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The locations include Mid Valley Landfill, 2390 N. Alder Ave., Rialto, and Heaps Peak, 29898 Hwy 18, Running Springs.
Volunteers will remove trash, cover graffiti, and improve trails in Cucamonga Canyon and the Etiwanda Preserve. Volunteers will meet at 8:30 a.m. at Cucamonga Valley Water District, 10440 Ashford St., Rancho Cucamonga Call (909) 944-6022 to RSVP for this event. Please come prepared for outdoor work.
The San Bernardino County Museum will host a tour of the historic John Raines House at 8810 Hemlock Ave. from 1 to 3 p.m. The historic venue is available for event rentals.
The San Antonio Heights Association will meet at 7 p.m. at in the Monte Vista Room at Life Bible Fellowship Church located at 2426 N. Euclid Ave.
The City of Upland will host the Scary-A-Faire Celebration from 5 to 8 p.m. in downtown Upland. The event will feature children's games and a costume contest.
The Lake Arrowhead Communities Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee will meet at 8 a.m. at the Blue Jay Board Room located next to Alpine Escrow. Call (909) 337-3715 for information.
The Crestline Friends of the Library will host "Taste for Literacy" at 5 p.m. at the San Moritz Lodge. Tickets costs \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Call (909) 338-6738 for information.
The Lake House located at 28966 Hook Creek Rd. in Cedar Glen invites residents to view local artists' work from 4 to 7 p.m.
The Upland Community Partnership for Youth Development will host a fundraising spaghetti dinner at 5:30 p.m. at the Gibson Senior Center at 250 N. Third Avenue. Tickets cost \$20.

Dates and times are subject to change without notice. Please contact Supervisor Rutherford's office at (909) 387-4833 if you have any questions or suggestions for the Events Calendar. You can view information about more local events on Supervisor Rutherford's home page at www.sbcounty.gov/rutherford.